

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments and following remarks.

Status of Claims

Claims 32-33 and 39 have previously been canceled. In the amendments above, claims 30, 31 and 34 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein.

Claims 1-29, 35-38, and 40-59 are thus currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 23, 35, 38, 42, 43, 44, and 52 are independent.

It is submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the above amendments. Entry thereof is therefore respectfully requested.

Summary of the Office Action

Claim 34 was rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claim 36 of U.S. Patent No. 7,106,204.

Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0149681 to Kahn et al. (hereinafter "Kahn").

Claims 1-29, 35-38, and 40-59 were indicated as being allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 1-29, 35-38 and 40-59 are allowed is noted with appreciation. In the amendments above, all of the rejected claims 30, 31 and 34 were

canceled. Thus, only allowed claims 1-29, 35-38 and 40-59 remain in the present application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claim 34 was rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claim 36 of U.S. Patent No. 7,106,204. This double patenting rejection, however, is moot in view of the cancelation of claim 34 in the amendments above. Thus, withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being anticipated by Kahn. However, this rejection is moot in view of the cancelation of claims 30 and 31 in the amendments above. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Please grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this request to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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